

The Trailhead News

Vol. 49 Issue 6

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

November/December 2024

**1st Place at the
23rd Annual BCHW
Winery Ride**



www.bchw.org



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Cover Photo: Jaime Gradt 1st place at 23rd Winery Ride and Costume Contest– Lady in the black outfit. Photo by: Jim Thode

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January 18.....	Mar/April
April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

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Chapter Directors: This list is taken from the
BCHW Directory located online at bchw.org.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "Lifetime," "Contributing," "Sustaining," and "Patron" members.

The Optional Membership Program is available to all members for renewal or new membership. Members in this program pay only the optional membership fee, which includes the Family or Single Membership. The optional membership information on this page is provided by the BCHW Membership Committee. **If you have any corrections or questions, please e-mail membership@bchw.org.**

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Lifetime Members					
Mitch Baird	IND	Christina Cline	MVC	Kathy & Bob Jones	TDC
Scott Bauer	CHC	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller	IND	Laurie Kallsen-George	PNC
Amanda Biles	TAH	Gary & Kathy Collins	MSH	Tony & Cathy Karniss	LCC
Penelope Booker	IND	Greg Cox	GHC	Leah & Franz Keylard	TAH
Karen Briskey	PCC	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Bob & Nancy Lee	EVC
Caleb Canby	MVC	Sherrie Elliott	NEC	Kris Lenke & Dave Peterson	BHR
Janis Collett	PCC	Bruce & Kathy Foreman	NEC	Ed & Teri Letcher	WEN
Missy Day	TAH	Robert Gish & Gloria Dennison	NEC	Michele McGehee	GHC
David Jackson	PSR	KEVIN & Lisa Graese	NEC	Kathy McGehee-Hansen	NSC
Lori Lennox	GHC	Karl Kaiyala & Kathy Rafferty	MVC	Bob & Rani Merz	MAC
Kim Merrick	NSC	Mary Kane	TAH	Kris Moran	GHC
Heather Moorman	PSR	Lorraine Karmen	CHC	Jeanette & John O'Keefe	MVC
Jason Ridlon	IND	Bill Kehner	IND	Kathleen Parshall	TAH
Kathy Russo	IND	Edris Kenan	TAH	Leonard & Kathy Rolph	MAC
Dave Seibel	MOC	Mike & Chris McGlenn	WCC	Laurel Saville	WCC
Bob Shonka	IND	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND	Brian & Cindi Vance	NEC
Teri Starke	IND	Paul Mellick	RRR	Larry Wachtel	IND
Cathy Upper	MVC	James Miller	IND	Joan & Ben Wildman	PNC
Barbara Woo	CHC	Mary & Dennis Owens	GHC	Bob & Lyris Wooldridge	MAC
Pat Wyers	MAC	Frank & Sandra Servine	NIS		
2024 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Jan Whitlow	MOC	Heather Spencer	MOC		
2023 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Kinney/Churchill	TDC	Lynda Stafford	SCR		
2024 Patron Level					
Kathy & Bob Cole	MSH	Michael Torok	MVC		
William Hamlin & Anne Razzolini	RRR	Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NEC		
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson	GHC	Louise & Peter Walton	NEC		
Cindy & Dean Kobetich	BHR	Nancy Wiest	PCC		
Mary Krauss & Joe Berner	CHC	Bonnie Witrak	TAH		
Dale & Tina Merten	GHC	JoAnn Yost	GHC		
Bob Showalter	RRR	2024 Contributing Level			
Brenda Wiebe	MAC	Earl & Dorothy Aalseth	CHC		
Todd & Janet Wiebke	IND	Jim & Terri Anderson	MSH		
2024 Sustaining Level					
Gene Brent	TAH	Meg Brinton & Nick Lowe	MSH		
Sherry & Alex Brown	LCC	Tyler Castle	MSH		
Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH	Jan & Jim Craghead	CCR		
Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR	Ken & Pam Evans	MAC		
		Carol Finney	MSH		
		Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley	PCC		
		Kris & Don Hand	PSR		
		Judith & Bob Hoyle	BHR		
		Brain & Tammy Jansen	MSH		



A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance

Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or tstrk21@msn.com.

Tax Deduction

Please be informed that membership dues, paid at the state as well as the chapter level, are tax deductible for the calendar year and subsequent years. Deduct your dues as a charitable contribution under authority of IRC Section 170 (assuming the person paying the membership dues itemizes their deductions when computing their federal net taxable income) or as a business deduction under authority of IRC Section 162 (assuming the person paying the membership dues has a "trade or business" and the payment of the membership dues is directly related to this "trade or business"). When making a donation, ask for a receipt.

Your volunteer mileage is also deductible. Make copies of your volunteer hours logs with mileage for your taxes. ↻



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

By the time you all read this, our 2024 Winery Ride will be wrapped up. We are hopeful that we will hold the event in 2025, so stay tuned. As we move into fall and winter, it is time to get chores done, clean our blankets, and buy new muck boots. Mine have a hole in them, and they have worked fine all summer. It is the time of the year to hold your chapter elections. It would be helpful if we got some new, younger blood to step up and hold a position in your chapter. The work is not hard, and there is a lot of help from the other members and the state; all you have to do is ask. If you think you might be interested, look at the job descriptions on the Members page of the website.

Now, I want to talk a little about BCHA; for those who

don't know, when you pay dues to BCHW, you are automatically a member of BCHA. BCHA has an amazing Director of Public Lands and Recreation, Randy Rasmussen. He fights daily for our rights to ride our equines on public land across the United States. He is leading the charge if lawsuits need to be filed to continue those rights. That is why they have a Legal fund that needs to be built up in order to fight the fight. So, on behalf of BCHA, I'd like to ask you to consider donating to BCHA when you renew your dues. If you have already renewed, you can donate using our State and Chapter donation forms.

Have a great winter, be safe and don't forget that dinner and camping reservations for Rendezvous 2025 will start soon, so be sure to watch for that and plan to join us!! 🐾

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BCHW Mission Statement

BCHW is affiliated with Back Country Horsemen of America (hereinafter "BCHA") and therefore adopts the BCHA mission statement as follows: The mission of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.



**Proud Sponsor of
23rd Annual
Winery Ride**



Vice President's Corner



By Ken Carmichael, BCHW Vice President

As you look around BCHW, you'll see many individuals, including the seven officers, who are crucial to the organization's function. Our committees, in particular, play a vital role by providing specialized information and services to our members. Your contribution to these committees is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

We are anxious to hear your questions and input. We received many questions and comments through the surveys sent to Directors, Presidents, Treasurers, BCHW officers and committee chairs.

If you have questions or input concerning BCHW operations or how we can help your chapter, you can talk to your

chapter Director. But also feel free to ask a committee chair for help. They can have direct knowledge that will help you. They are listed on the front cover of the Trailhead News. Feel free to ask me if you cannot determine who to talk to.

Perhaps you're seeking your place in the management of BCHW. There are numerous opportunities to get involved, whether it's on a committee, utilizing your specific skills, or applying for an open committee chair position. The possibilities are abundant, and the rewards, both personal and for the organization, are significant. Your participation can truly make a difference. 🐾

DID YOU KNOW –

BCHW is a nonprofit 501C3 corporation. Knowing and following the laws for 501C3 is important. This allows donors contributing to BCHW (and chapters) to take a federal tax deduction for their donation.

Our membership fee can also be tax deductible, and BCHW is eligible for many grants. This is all important for accomplishing the BCH mission.



Please clip out and mail



Permanent or Temporary Address Change Form

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

New Address: _____

Temporary Address for Snow Birds: _____

Start date: _____ Return Date: _____

Mail to: Dana Chambers, State Membership Chair, 11404 210th Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391

Email to: membership.bchw@gmail.com

2024 BCHW Awards Program

Never too early to start the list

By Susan Sundahl, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Start the process of gathering information for the nomination packet now. Nominations are due by February 1, 2025 and will be awarded at Rendezvous in March. There are so many deserving BCHW members that should receive one of these awards. If your Chapter does not have a nominating committee for Awards, please put it on the agenda for your next meeting. I am more than happy to assist you with your nominations. In addition, BCHW appreciates donations from individuals and Chapters for these awards. For more information and to see past award winners, please visit the Awards page at bchw.org/programs/awards.

BCHW AWARDS CATEGORIES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT This award is for the BCHW member or couple who has shown a lifetime of dedication to BCHW by actively pursuing and promoting the organization and the BCHW Mission Statement in a variety of ways. This award is for recognition, not a contest.

Lifetime = 1, max 2 awarded

LOPPER AWARD This award is for a BCHW member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to their chapter or to BCHW by participation and promotion of what the BCHW Mission Statement stands for. This is kind of an “all around” award, with the nominee being active in several different aspects of the many things that make up BCHW.

Lopper = 3, max 4 awarded

CAMP COOK This award is for the BCHW member who willingly keeps the campfires burning and the kettles hot and full of delicious food to share with others. Whether it is at meetings, work parties or social functions, they are in the kitchen making sure all are well fed.

Camp Cook = 1 awarded

TRAIL WARRIOR This person may not make all the chapter functions or even own a computer, but they are out rain or shine, day in and day out, working on the trails.

Trail Warrior = 3, max 4 awarded

DESK JOCKEY This person is one of the behind-the-scenes people, always at a computer or running from meeting to meeting. They keep the wheels of our organization turning.

Desk Jockey = 2, max 3 awarded



JUNIOR BCHW Our future! Who stands out in your chapter?

This person would participate in chapter events such as work parties, fund raisers, LNT/education, training or BCHW promotion such as parades.

Junior BCH = 1, max 2 awarded

BACKBONE This award is to recognize that special member who is always there when needed, ready and willing to do some special job that no one else can or will do, sometimes at the last minute. This is a member who is very important in keeping the chapter, organization or an event operating smoothly.

Backbone = 2, max 3 awarded

CINCH AWARD The BCHW Board of Directors nominates this award and the President nominates five directors to make the selection. It was created to recognize those hard-working BCHW members who have consistently and competently carried out jobs at the state level, year after year. Recipients shall be Volunteer Committee Chairmen, Volunteer Committee member, or an UN-ELECTED state officer - they keep the wheels of this great organization running smoothly. They may or may not be very visible - they may be quietly working in the background, reliably doing their jobs. They may or may not be active or hold an office in a chapter or even be a chapter member, but they are invaluable at the state level.

Cinch Award = 1, max 2 awarded

PRESIDENT'S DIAMOND AWARD The BCHW President awards a person or persons “In recognition of outstanding dedication, passion and commitment to the BCHW mission”. The President’s Diamond Award is decided autonomously from the BCHW Awards Program.

President’s Diamond Award = 1, max 2 awarded

SPONSORSHIPS Last year eight different BCHW chapters and one business sponsored BCHW awards. Thanks to Ponderosa, Pierce County, Capitol Riders, Scatter Creek, Methow Valley, Tahoma, Buckhorn Chapters and Harbor Saw for your sponsorships. These sponsorships, partnered with the BCHW award budget, resulted in nineteen volunteers being recognized in eight categories. Please encourage you, your chapter or businesses to support the BCHW Award Program for one or more of the award categories. Also remember that with our 501(c3) there is a tax advantage for award donations. 🐾

2024 BCHW Award Nomination Form

(one form per nominee)

Lifetime Achievement	_____	Desk Jockey	_____
Lopper Award	_____	Junior BCHW	_____
Camp Cook	_____	Backbone Award	_____
Trail Warrior	_____		

Nominees' Name _____

Chapter(s) _____

Submitted by _____

Chapter(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Information to include in your nomination presentation:

- In 75 words or less, give an opening statement telling why this person is deserving of special, statewide recognition for this specific award.
- Then separately, on as many pages as you need, create a presentation detailing WHY this person should receive this award.
- Chapters this person has belonged to and for how long
- Positions or job titles this person has held
- An estimate of his or her volunteer hours (Chapter Vol Hour Chairs can help with this)
- Awards this person has won
- Trails or camps this person has worked on
- A little family history
- Include anything which will make your nominee stand out! (Letters of recommendation from land managers, news clippings, photos, etcetera.)

The presentation you submit will be given to the recipient.

Mail nomination forms with your presentation via the US Post Office to: BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Susan Sundahl
 15188 Stevens Rd. S.E. Olalla, WA 98359
 Questions: pappihorse@wavecable.com or 253-380-0343

Must be received before February 1, 2025



Please clip out and mail





2024 BCHW Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest

By Barb Thomas, Winery Chair

We could not have asked for better weather for the October 26th Winery Ride event. For the first time in five years, Friday and Saturday saw mostly clear, sunny skies with very little wind.

Despite having about 100 fewer campsites, we had 390 registered riders, and these riders bought over 2000 bottles of wine. Many riders were of the mind to buy by the case(s) and stock up for the year. Several said they knew we almost didn't have this event and wanted to support the wineries.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the chapters who generously donated to help cover our expenses this year. Grays Harbor, Ponderosa, Wenas, Methow Valley, Peninsula, Olympic, Lewis, Scatter Creek, Capitol Riders, Whidbey Island and Mt. St. Helen's, your support was invaluable. And a special thank you to Les Schwab for sponsoring this ride once again.

Last but certainly not least are the over 80 volunteers who staked out the campsites the week before and were on site the weekend of the event. I often stress that the money raised is one of many

important things this event does. It brings in volunteers from just about every BCHW chapter and enables members to meet and talk to other chapters about our shared successes and trials. It is incredible how much we have in common and what we can learn from each other.

I want to share a heartfelt thank you from the Zillah wineries. As one winery expressed, your support is not just appreciated; it's vital. They shared that they wouldn't be able to weather the winter without the revenue from this event. Cheers! 🍷



PHOTOS BY JIM THODE



2024 BCHW Winery Ride and



PHOTOS BY JIM THODE

Thank You to the Participating Wineries:

Bonair Winery & Vineyards
 Knight Hill Winery
 Tanjuli Winery
 Whitman Hill

Dineen Vineyards
 Paradisos Del Sol Winery
 Two Mountain Winery
 Velen Winery

Hyatt Vineyards
 Silver Lake Winery
 Van Arnam Vineyards

Winery Ride Sponsor:





Halloween Costume Contest



PHOTOS BY JIM THODE

BCHW Sponsorships Program

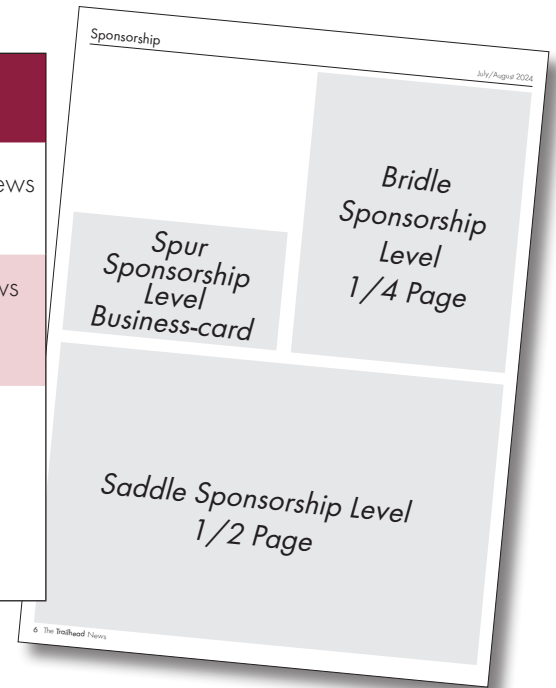
We are now offering annual sponsorships!

Sponsorship Levels will be for a calendar year and include the benefits listed below.

All levels of sponsors will be listed on the Sponsors page of our website.

- Back Country Horsemen of Washington Facebook page has 8.6K Followers
- Trailhead News publication goes to 2100+ members
- Rendezvous Three-day event gathers 400+ members and 100+ public attendance

Sponsorship Level	Benefits
Spur \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business card size listing in all 6 editions of our Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events
Bridle \$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter-page listing in our 6 editions of the Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events. • Booth at our statewide events (if desired)
Saddle \$5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-page listing in all 6 editions of the Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events. • Booth at our statewide events (if desired) • Posts on BCHW Facebook page



Contact president@bchw.org for more information

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire on December 31, 2024 and the renewal season starts on October 1st. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR SINGLE AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ARE INCREASING.

In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

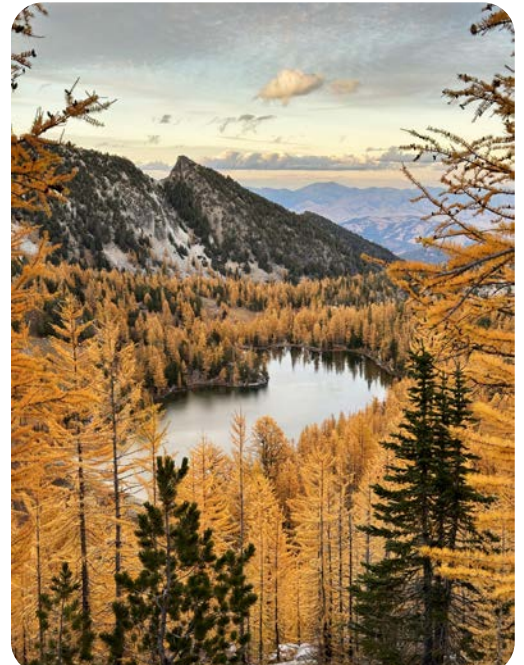
We Explored The Scenic Backcountry



By Kambria Schwalen, BCHW Skagit County Chapter

My sister and I set out on a quest to explore a scenic backcountry horse trail during the “larch madness.” We both took paid vacation to go on a weekday since accessibility can be an issue for horse trailers due to people parking on the shoulder of narrow forest service roads (a common concern at ALL of the scenic horse trails in the Northern part of the State). Arriving at 5 AM on a weekday, people were still parked in the designated horse trailer parking. Once at camp, we were pleasantly surprised to find a designated horse camp with signage, highline setups, campfire rings, and pit toilets and pleasantly surprised to find labeled

horse camps and highline setups at both Cooney and Eagle Lake out of Crater Creek Trailhead in the Methow Valley. Cooney Lake has thousands of cutthroat trout. I’m excited to visit more of the area and would love to help clear and maintain some of the wilderness trails, as long as I can actually access them with my horse. The end of September/early October is the best time to visit because there are no flies or smoke, and the colors are phenomenal. But it also brings hordes of Seattle Instagramers to contend with, a reason why some of the local backcountry Horsemen avoid the area that literally has signs saying “horse camp.” 🐾



Riding and Camping at BBQ Flats in Wenas

By Chris Prummer, Pierce County Chapter

The photo with just the kids sitting on the horse captured a pretty neat moment. My wife and I had gone to another campsite to sit around a fire with some friends, and my kids stealthily snuck away. They untied that horse from the high line, put a bareback pad on him, and then proceeded to ride him around the campsite together. I caught them in the act, right before they mounted back up for a second-go round. 🐾



FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

Be sure to: • Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event.

• Check to see if dogs are welcome.

Note: The BCHW Trailhead News represents as many events as possible; however, it makes no guarantees an event will be published. The calendar of events is subject to change. Please check with ride contact for most updated information. Please send calendar corrections to: thn@bchw.org.

1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Friday, March 14, 2025
5:30 pm Teanaway Room
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, June 21, 2025
9:00am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 20, 2025
9:00am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

2025 Rendezvous

Friday-Sunday, March 14-16, 2025
Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg, WA
treasurer@bchw.org

Content Deadline for the January/February 2024 Print Newsletter is December 1, 2024

Cover Photos can be sent anytime, 8x10 Vertical orientation is best (300 dpi).

You can send articles, photos and calendar of events early!

Please email your articles (700 word maximum) and 3 or 4 photos with caption and photo byline to thn@bchw.org as soon as possible.

ATTENTION!